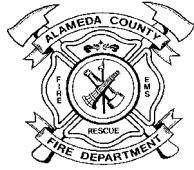


RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER NEWS



SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES:

Statistics from the National Fire Sprinkler Association show that sprinklers when used in conjunction with smoke detectors reduce the number of fire fatalities by 63% and by 57% with sprinklers alone.

KNOW YOUR SYSTEM COMPONENTS:

- 1.) Riser: This is the vertical part of your sprinkler system. It is located in your garage and is sometimes enclosed by a box.
- 2.) Inspectors Test: This is a valve that is located on the fire riser. It can be used to test the fire bell on your system. This valve is also in your garage and should have a sign saying "Inspectors Test Valve" identifying it.
- 3.) Gauge: Found on the riser. Shows if the sprinkler system has water on it.
- 4.) Fire Bell: This is the red bell that is located on the outside of your house. This bell will sound if water is flowing from your sprinkler system.
- 5.) Shut off valve: This valve is the same as the one you would use to shut off the main water to your house. It is usually located in one of two places: either at the water meter or at the house where the supply pipe enters your home.
- 6.) Sprinkler heads: Sprinkler heads are located on the ceiling of your home and in some cases at the very top of the wall. You may not see anything more than a round metal disc on the ceiling.
- 7.) Spare head box: This is the small red box hanging on the wall of your garage next to the riser. Inside the box you will find spare sprinkler heads and a wrench.
- 8.) Escutcheons: These are the small metal discs that either cover or surround your sprinkler heads. Escutcheons are used to seal gaps, maintain ratings and make sprinklers more esthetically pleasing.



If you have any questions or need more information, please call Fire Prevention at (925) 833-6606.

DISPELLING THE MYTHS:

- 1.) Myth: All of the sprinkler heads go off at once. **FALSE:** It takes the temperature to rise to 155° at each head before they go off.
- 2.) Myth: Heads can discharge water without any reason. **FALSE:** Accidental head discharges occur less than .05% of the time.
- 3.) Myth: Sprinkler heads do not have to be in every room or closet for your system to be correctly installed. **TRUE:** In fact, many closets with floor to ceiling shelves, like a linen closet often do not have heads. Bathrooms less than 55 sq. feet will often not have heads.
- 4.) Myth: When fire sprinklers go off they automatically summon the fire department. **FALSE:** The only time the fire department will be called is if you call 9-1-1 or if your sprinklers are monitored by an alarm company.

INSURANCE DISCOUNTS

Did you know most insurance companies in America today offer discounts on residential fire insurance policies?

Most insurance companies today offer discounts on your homeowners policy for residences equipped with fire sprinklers. These savings can run anywhere from 0-25% depending on the insurance company. It may be beneficial to you to consult with your agent about these discounts.

Brought to you by the Alameda County Fire Department,
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100 Civic Plaza, Dublin CA 94568 Phone: (925) 833-6606 Fax: (925) 829-9248

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CAUTION:

- 1.) Never paint your sprinkler heads or their escutcheons.
- 2.) Never hang anything from any part of your fire sprinkler system.
- 3.) Never stack items close to the fire sprinkler heads. Tops of storage should be at least 18" below the heads.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- 1.) Will the water damage from my sprinklers will be extensive?

Water damage due to fire sprinkler activation is significantly less than the damage that would result from traditional fire fighting. There are two reasons for this: First, the fire does not spread as rapidly. Therefore the size of the fire is significantly smaller which means less fire to put out. Secondly, fire hoses discharge between 10-200% of the fire's water.

- 2.) How much do fire sprinklers cost to have installed?

This question is a little hard to answer because the price does vary between the various regions of the county and depending on the installation contractors. However you can expect to pay somewhere between \$2.50 and \$5.00 a square foot installed.

- 3.) I want to remodel my house. Do I need a permit to revise my sprinkler system?

Your system may or may not need to be modified. Contact a licensed sprinkler contractor to help you determine if modifications are needed. If so, you will need to obtain the appropriate permits from the City.

IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER

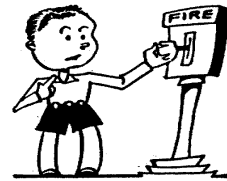
- 1.) Test your smoke detectors when you test your fire sprinkler system.

- 2.) If your fire system activates, call 9-1-1 and have the fire department respond, even if you think the fire is out.
- 3.) Make sure your house address is clearly visible from the street.
- 4.) Make sure everyone in your house knows the way out in case of a fire.

FIRE SPRINKLER CHECKLIST:

| Test your system monthly. (If your system is monitored by an alarm company, be sure to notify them before testing the system. This will prevent sending them a false alarm.

| Open the inspectors test valve.



| Listen for an alarm bell.

| Once the bell sounds, turn off the valve. If the alarm bell does not go off

within 45 seconds, call a qualified sprinkler contractor to make the necessary repairs.

| During the time the valve is open you will want to look outside your garage at the wall in which the riser is on. You should see water coming out of the discharge pipe. If water is coming out then the water is on in your fire sprinkler system.

CHECKING YOUR SYSTEM:

In addition to testing your system monthly, you should check out the following things:

- 1.) All escutcheons are in place.
- 2.) Sprinkler heads have not been painted.
- 3.) Sprinkler heads are not obstructed.
- 4.) Nothing is hanging from the heads.
- 5.) Is the spare head box hanging in the garage and are there at least three heads and a wrench in the box?